

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041425

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EA:RHMILLER:AOA

APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER

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P 202121Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041425

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FOLLOWING REPEATS COLOMBO 630 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MANILA SINGAPORE 19 FEB

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 630

EO 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CE, TH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE THAI INTEREST IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: BANGKOK 2064

1. FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL BASNAYAKA, WHO ACCOMPANIED
PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIAKE ON HER TRIP TO SOUTHEAST
ASIA, TOLD AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 13 THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR
SURPRISES WAS THE APPARENT INTEREST OF THAILAND IN THE
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. POSSIBLE RTG PARTICIPATION
IN AUGUST MEETING WAS RAISED WITH MRS. BANDARANAIAKE BY
THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER, HE TOLD PRIMIN
THAT, IN VIEW OF THE DISSOLUTION OF SEATO AND PHASE-
OUT OF AMERICAN TROOPS, THAIS SHOULD BE ABLE TO QUALIFY
FOR SOME TYPE OF NON-ALIGNED STATUS, (HE APPARENTLY
DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF
FULL PARTICIPATION, OBSERVER OR GUEST).

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PAGE 02 STATE 041425

2. ACCORDING TO BASNAYAKE, MRS BANARANAIAKE AND HER DELEGATION,

GAVE GENERALLY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAIS, BUT
ASKED WHETHER CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOME US TROOPS
MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.
THE THAIS EXPLAINED THAT ONLY ABOUT 2000 AMERICAN
FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN THAILAND. OF THESE, ABOUT
1000 WOULD BE IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY, WHILE ANOTHER
1000 WOULD MAN COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS FOR THE
DEFENSE OF THAILAND. MRS. BANDARANAIKE ACCEPTED THIS
EXPLANATION AND PROPOSED THAT, AFTER THE THAI ELECTIONS,
FOREIGN MINISTER SEND FORMAL REQUEST TO SRI LANKA FOR
PARTICIPATION AT COLOMBO SUMMIT, THIS FORMAL REQUEST,
WHEN RECEIVED, WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED BY OTHER
NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.
VAN HOLLEN QUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE041425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RHMILLER:AOA
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0322
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760228/aaaaaylh.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 2064
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE THAI INTEREST IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CE, TH, (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO)
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006